

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6-19 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle optical ring network, comprising:

an optical data line configured in that defines a ring network;

a playback transducer;

at least one data source ~~that is connected to~~ the said-optical data line, and provides compressed data onto the said-optical data line; and

at least one data sink ~~that is connected to~~ the said-optical data line, and receives the said compressed data from the said-optical data ~~bus line~~ and provides received compressed data indicative thereof, wherein the said-data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the said-received compressed data and provide a decompressed data signal indicative thereof to the said-playback transducer;

where the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed data, where the format of the received compressed

data may be one of a plurality of compression formats.

7. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 6, where ~~the in said~~ bit stream decoder ~~includes means for decompressesing~~ video data.

8. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where ~~the in said~~ bit stream decoder ~~includes means for decompressesing~~ audio data.

9. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 8, where ~~the in said~~ playback transducer includes at least one loudspeaker.

10. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where ~~the in said~~ playback transducer includes a video display.

11. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where ~~the in said~~ bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder, a JPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder.

12. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 8, where ~~the in said~~ at least one data source includes a radio tuner.

13. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 12, further comprising a second data source that includes a DVD player ~~that is connected to the said~~ optical data line and provides compressed data onto ~~the said~~ optical data line.

14. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 13, where ~~the in said~~ bit stream decoder is selectively configured as one of an MPEG decoder, a JPEG decoder and ~~or~~ an AC-3 decoder in response to control signal data received by the said bit stream decoder over the said optical data line.

15. (Currently Amended) An optical ring network for a motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

an optical data line configured as ~~that defines~~ a ring network;

—— ~~a playback transducer;~~

—— ~~a video display;~~

a first data source ~~that is connected to~~ the said optical data line, and provides compressed audio data onto the said optical data line;

a second data source ~~that is connected to~~ the said optical data line, and provides compressed video data onto the said optical data line;

a video display device ~~that is connected to~~ the said optical data line, and receives the said compressed video data from the said optical data ~~bus line~~ and provides received compressed video data indicative thereof, where ~~the in said~~ video display device includes a first bit stream decoder to decompress the said received compressed video data and provide a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof for display by the said video display device, and where the video display device provides for audio playback of data related to the compressed audio data; and

an audio playback device ~~that is connected to~~ the said optical data line, and receives the said compressed audio data from the said optical data ~~bus line~~ and provides received compressed audio

data indicative thereof, where ~~the in said~~ audio playback device includes a second bit stream decoder to decompress ~~the said~~ received compressed audio data and provide a decompressed audio signal indicative ~~thereof said decompressed audio data signal indicative thereof to said a~~ for playback ~~transducer~~ by the audio playback device;

where one of the video display device and the audio playback device includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed video data to a format of the received compressed video data, where the format of the received compressed video data includes one of a plurality of compression formats, and where the control unit conducts the compressed audio data to one of the video display device and the audio playback device for audio playback thereby.

16. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 15, where ~~the in said first~~ second bit stream decoder ~~includes means for decoding~~ ing MPEG and AC-3 data.

17. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 16, where ~~the in said second~~ first bit stream decoder ~~includes means for decoding~~ ing MPEG and JPEG data.

18. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 17, where ~~the in said~~ first data source includes a radio tuner.

19. (Currently Amended) The optical ring network of claim 18, where ~~in the said~~ second data source includes a digital video disc (DVD) player.